



The Examiner has found that claims 17-22 are classified in class 435, subclass 287.1. Subclass 287.1 is a further classification of the "Apparatus" subclass 283.1 as "including measuring or testing".

Since independent claim 11 is directed to "an apparatus for staining specimen slides", and independent claim 17 is directed to "a slide rack for a slide-staining apparatus", applicants respectfully assert that both independent claim 11 and independent claim 17 could be properly classified together. Furthermore, applicants note that the Examiner did not provide reasons to show why the inventions in groups II and III are distinct.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider examination of Groups II and III.

### **CONCLUSION**

Applicants do not believe that this response requires that any fees be submitted, however, if any fees are deemed necessary, they may be charged to Deposit Account 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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